

Kendrick School

Return to School in September 2020 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What has been done to prepare for the safe reopening of Kendrick School in September?

Kendrick School will reopen in September guided by these five key principles:

1. Everyone returns in September; staff and students
2. Safety for all is the top priority
3. Focus on best quality learning and teaching
4. Mental health and well-being of all are considered and supported
5. Contingency planning and quickly becoming lock down ready

The government has published [guidance on the wider opening of schools in September](#). Its primary focus is to ensure that all children are back in school in the autumn with education settings working at full capacity. The government states that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill with Covid-19 is very low and the risks of returning are far outweighed by the benefits of a full school re-opening. Guidance has also been produced which is aimed at parents/carers – click here for a [link](#).

Kendrick School will adhere to the latest government advice and guidance but continue to make judgements at a school level to balance minimising any risks from Covid-19 whilst aiming to provide a full educational experience for all students.

Kendrick School sets out to ensure that the measures introduced are sensible and proportionate by following the health and safety hierarchy of control to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practical level.

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes. The latest government guidance on student attendance and shielding/anxiety can be found via this [link](#). Unless we have been advised otherwise, all students are expected in school every day.

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell or if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#). All families should abide by the government guidance for self-isolation, quarantine and track and trace. Government information on testing can be found [here](#).

Does school uniform need to be worn?

Yes, we will expect all students to be dressed in accordance with the [school uniform guidelines](#). Government advice is that a school uniform does not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor does it need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

From Wednesday 9th September, students will wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE (please see the information on PE further on in these Q&As).

What are the arrangements for the first day of term (Monday 7th September 2020)?

Students in Years 8-11 and Year 13 should make their way to their form rooms when they arrive in school. The school day will start as normal at 8.25am. Staff will be on hand to direct students.

Year 7 – Year 7 students should come to Reception in East Street no earlier than 8am. They will be greeted and taken to the Sports Hall to meet their tutor. Parents/carers should not come onto the school site. A separate communication will be sent to Year 7 parents regarding the first day of term.

Year 12 – Year 12 students should come into school and make their way to their form rooms. If they need reminding of their form or the location of the room, they should come to the Conservatory.

What happens if my child is self-isolating or quarantining next week?

It is very important that you let us know as soon as possible if your child is not attending school next week due to self-isolating or quarantining by emailing admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk. We will discuss circumstances on an individual basis.

Will you be checking temperatures daily or routinely testing?

No. Government guidance is clear that routinely taking the temperature of students is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

Will you be following social distancing guidelines?

Yes - where possible. The government guidance states that social distancing in schools is not always practical but recommends that reasonable efforts should still be made. Staff will stay at the front of the class, 2 metres from students and all student desks will be facing forward.

Will the students be required to keep 2 metres apart?

No. The Government recognises that children, cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other. However, we will be encouraging the students to social distance where possible, especially when moving around the school using the one way system.

How does the 'bubble' system work?

The students will be kept in 'bubbles' of year groups for teaching to reduce the amount of mixing and social contact. The students will remain in classrooms as much as possible to maintain integrity of the bubble and teachers will go to them for the majority of lessons. Students will do practical lessons in specialist rooms and areas; work surfaces and equipment are cleaned on arrival of new groups by students. Staff will wipe down their working areas including keyboards. For Year 10-13 option subjects and mathematics sets, students will move to the tutor room for which most members of the group are based.

Each 'bubble' will be assigned its own area for break and lunchtime. They will also be assigned outside areas near their form rooms for break and lunchtime: Years 7 and 8 - in front of the Horizons block and the courts, Year 9 – the green area in front of Cedars, Years 10 and 11 – the front lawn and the Sixth Form – the green area outside Staff room 4.

Will teachers be assigned to a 'bubble'?

No. Teachers will move around the school as needed (as opposed to the usual model of students travelling to specific departments). They will maintain good social distancing and hygiene to minimise risks.

Will staff be required to wear a face covering/mask at school?

The government is not recommending the universal use of face coverings in school. Based on current evidence and the measures that the school is putting in place, face coverings are not necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Staff will be allowed to wear face masks/coverings in school if they wish, and if it is appropriate to the activity they are doing.

Are students able to wear a face covering/mask at school?

Yes. Students will be allowed to wear face masks/coverings in school if they wish, and if it is appropriate to the activity they are doing. Students who are wearing a face mask/covering whilst in school, must also have a clear sealable plastic bag to keep it in for when it is not being worn. If a facemask/covering is used for travelling, the student must replace this with a clean mask/covering when they get to school. Face masks/coverings should be discreet, appropriate and not distracting.

Will the arrival and departure times be staggered?

No. The start and end of the school day will remain the same. Staff will be on duty at the beginning and end of the day to supervise students. Students will be able to come into school from 7.45 am (except Year 7 on the first day of term as detailed above) through the East Street Reception gate. Students naturally stagger their arrival. At the end of the day, Year 7, 8 and 9 students will leave using East Street Reception gate and Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students can leave using the London Road or East Street Reception gate according to where they finish their last lesson.

What is the recommended travel to and from school?

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child travels to and from school in the most appropriate and safe manner. Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. Students who ride a bicycle to school must sign and agree to the bike permit conditions set by the school.

If students are travelling by public transport they should follow the [latest government guidance](#). We have provided Reading Buses with the information collated from the travel to school survey and they have assured us that they have provided extra buses on the busiest routes. Their latest updates can be found [here](#).

Parents/carers should not drop off students in East Street or places where it would cause inconvenience to local travel or safety implications for pedestrians.

Please also note that Sidmouth Street is now only one way from London Road (RBH side) to the IDR (A329), and cars can no longer travel the other way as it is a cycle path only.

What procedures are in place to ensure handwashing?

All students will be expected to wash or sanitise their hands frequently during the course of the day and there will be regular reminders on the importance of hand washing. Clear guidance will be given to all students on the optimal hand-washing technique. It is important that all students wash or sanitise their hands thoroughly when they arrive at school, before eating, and after using the toilet. Students should bring in their own sanitiser. There will also be sanitiser in each room and at the entrance to the school.

Are you putting any additional cleaning measures in place?

Yes. We have changed rotas to provide additional cleaning throughout the day with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces, and toilets.

For specialist subject lessons (eg Science) students will be asked to clean their work surface before the lesson starts with disinfectant wipes/spray as guided. Each teaching area will have a hygiene box containing essential cleaning materials to wipe surfaces, sanitiser and some PPE.

Will break and lunchtimes be staggered?

Yes. The lunchbreak will be extended to an hour so that 'bubbles' can go to lunch at staggered times. Packed lunches should be brought in disposable packaging and all rubbish should be placed in a suitable bag brought from home then either taken home to dispose of, or placed in a tied or sealed bag (for example a sandwich style bag) within the bins provided in school. Students will be allowed to eat their packed lunches in their classrooms and areas will be allocated for hot meals.

Will school meals be available?

Yes. Hot and cold school meals will be available at second break. Our school meals provider, Chartwells, will be following the [government guidance for food business on COVID-19](#). Students are encouraged to bring their own cutlery in a sealable plastic bag to minimise waste where possible or packs of disposable plastic cutlery will be available if required. We may consider trialling a pre-ordering system later in the term.

The canteen will be open at first break for Sixth Form students only, so all other students should ensure they bring snacks and drinks if required. Snacks and lunches should not include nuts.

Sixth Form students will not be allowed off the school site during the school day, including going to Tesco's.

Will the full curriculum be taught?

Yes. The full curriculum will be taught from the start of term

Will PE lessons take place?

Yes. Students will be taught PE in their 'bubble' and equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between use by different individual groups. Students will have a PE 'orientation' lesson during the first week of term to explain the routine and procedures for PE during this term. **PE kit should not be worn until they have had their orientation lesson.**

Once they have had their orientation lesson, going forward students should come into school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. They will need to wear black tracksuit bottoms on the days when the weather is cold and wet or if they travel via public transport. The bottoms need to be plain black and suitable for sport but do not have to be from Stevenson's as we know they are having supply issues.

Swimming is a safe activity as the volume of water dilutes the virus and the level of chlorine helps to eliminate it. [Swim England](#) have submitted their guidance for swimming lessons and we will follow these. We will be using two changing areas where the students will be allocated a specific changing area which will be numbered for them, this area will be cleaned before and after each lesson. Normal school uniform can be worn on days where swimming is their only PE lesson.

Outdoor sports will be prioritised wherever possible. Schools can only provide team sports on the list available via the following [link](#).

Will music lessons take place?

Yes. The school will follow the government guidance for "[Music, dance and drama in school](#)".

Will students be able to continue with individual music lessons?

Peripatetic music lessons start from 21st September 2020. The preferred system is that peripatetic music teachers will provide individual lessons remotely out of school time. If this is not suitable a range of options will be available to suit the student and the music teacher.

Will remote learning be available?

No. Lessons will not be provided remotely, unless there is another local or national lockdown. Work will be set for students unable to attend school.

How will students minimize the sharing of classroom equipment?

As far as possible students should ensure they have their own appropriate classroom equipment, for example pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, glue and calculator. Subject based equipment, for example science equipment, will be used in lines with the guidance. This allows for the use of equipment within a bubble but the need to thoroughly clean or quarantine equipment for 72 hours before using with another bubble.

Will assemblies continue to happen?

Yes. All school assemblies will be via Google Meet to students in their classroom, shown on the whiteboard by their tutor or class teacher initially. This will be reviewed in due course.

Will my child have access to the Library?

In this interim period, the Library will only be available to the Sixth Form. This will be reviewed in due course. We are looking to develop a system which would allow book swapping safely and hope to trial this in the Autumn term.

Will the Library be open before and after school?

In this interim period the Library will not be open before or after school. This will be reviewed in due course. However, students in Years 7 and 8 are able to wait in the Conservatory (next to the Library) until 4pm in exceptional circumstances – please email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk on a daily basis if this is required.

Will after school activities take place as normal?

In this interim period, no after school activities will take place. This will be reviewed in due course.

Will school trips go ahead next term?

There will be a temporary suspension of all residential trips. All day trips will need be proposed and agreed with the Headteacher. This will be reviewed for Term 2.

Will Parents' Evenings and Information Evenings operate as normal?

For the foreseeable future Parents' Evenings and Information Evenings will take place remotely. Each year group will be contacted separately with dates, times and a meeting link.

Will the School Nurse and Counsellor be available as normal?

The School Counsellor will return next week. She has a number of clients already booked in and the Welfare and

Attendance Officer will arrange appointments as appropriate. There may be a waiting for new clients. The School Nurse may be available and this will be managed through the normal system.

What happens if my child is unwell at school?

If your child is feeling unwell at school they should go to the General Office as normal. If they are displaying signs of COVID they will be supervised in an isolation room and you will be contacted to collect them immediately to self-isolate at home following [government guidance](#). You will be advised to [book a test](#) for your child.

What will happen if a student or member of staff tests positive for COVID-19?

The school will contact the local health protection team in accordance with government guidance. This team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious. Following advice from the health protection team, these people may be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with the person when they were infectious. The household of those sent home does not need to self-isolate unless the person sent home develops symptoms. The detailed government guidance on this issue is available in point 8 of [this section of its guidance](#).

Will whole year groups or the school be closed if a student or member of staff tests positive for Covid-19?

Not necessarily. It will depend on the extent of other positive cases in the last 14 days and further advice from the local health protection team. The detailed government guidance on this issue is available in point 9 of [this section of its guidance](#).

What should parents/carers do if their child or a member of their household tests positive for Covid-19?

Please follow government guidance and any specific instructions given by the NHS following the test result. In addition, please immediately tell the school (0118 9015859) or email admin@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

What will happen if the school has to physically close again?

We will revert to remote learning.